

LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

The Chairman and Members of the Liskeard Rural District Council,
Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Liskeard for the year 1942.

It is with pleasure that I am able to report that the general health of the District was good. No severe epidemics were experienced, the total number of notifiable infectious diseases being 69 only.

Liskeard Cottage Hospital has continued to enhance its splendid reputation in the area - A large number of the total admissions and out-patient attendances came from the Rural District.

In spite of very depleted numbers, the local division of the St. John Ambulance Association has met all the calls for its services. The Ambulance has been ready day and night - every day of the year. The remaining members have never failed to deal very efficiently with all and every call for their services.

As usual the District Nurses have maintained their already high standard of efficiency. Their work is never easy in a large Rural District, but the high standard of their work and the confidence of the public they enjoy has enabled them to save the Doctors of the area much valuable time and mileage.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	104,851 acres.
Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	16,440
Rateable value of the District.	36,548
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£161.17.5.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Chief Industries of the District are Agriculture and Dairy Farming. Industries which are prejudicial to the public health are non-existent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births.			
Legitimate.	243	121	122
Illegitimate.	13	8	5
	<hr/> 256	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 127

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 15.57

Birth Rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 15.8

Still Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	4	3	1
Illegitimate.	0	0	0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live & Still Births) 15.38
 Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population. .24

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	198	97	101

Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 12.04
 Rate for England & Wales estimated resident population. 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.
Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis.	0
Other Maternal Causes.	2

Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) 7.69
 Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still for England & Wales. 2.01

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	13	6	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death Rate All Infants per 1,000 Live Births. 50.78
 Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 53.49
 Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 0

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all Ages) 2
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Male	Female
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	5	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
Influenza	1	2
Cancer. (Mouth & Gullet)	2	-
" Uterus	-	3
" Breast	-	2
" All other Sites.	10	5
Diabetes.	1	-
Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	6	9
Heart Disease.	30	45
Other diseases of Circulatory System.	1	-
Bronchitis	5	2
Pneumonia	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	-
Digestive Diseases excluding Appendicitis	-	2
Nephritis	3	4
Premature Birth	3	1
Suicide.	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	4	-
Other violent causes	2	2
All other causes	6	12
Cancer Stomach & Duodenum	5	2
Congenital Malformation & Birth Injuries	1	1



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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of
the Authority.

a. Medical -

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E. S. Toogood, Golden Bank,
Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District
Medical Officers and/or as Public Vaccinators:-

Dr. A. G. Aitken.	Callington
Dr. W. H. King.	Fowey.
Dr. A. McCloy.	Polperro
Dr. B. B. Metcalfe.	Liskeard
Dr. L. Moran.	Looe
Dr. J. R. Smale.	Pensilva.

Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth, undertakes the pathological
examination of material submitted.

County Tuberculosis Officer - Dr. Day, County Hall, Truro.

b. Others -

Sanitary Inspector) Mr. G. Rogers. A.R.S.I. Liskeard.
Meat & Food Inspector	
Milk & Dairy Inspector	
Building Surveyor	

Public Analysts of Water -

- (a) Chemical Messrs. Benedict Kitto & Sons, London.
- (b) Bacteriological Mr. Wm. Partridge, Holborn, London.

Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in the arrangements for the
examination and analysis of Clinical material, water, milk and
foodstuffs.

Milk and pathological examinations are carried out by
Dr. E. Wordley, Plymouth. Foodstuffs by the County Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Liskeard Division of the St. John Ambulance Association
has done valuable work in the removal of non-infectious cases,
accident cases (both road and industrial) and, when necessary,
maternity cases. The total number of cases dealt with by this
Division during 1942 was 184, and the total mileage covered was
6,646.

The Women's Division has done valuable work in accompanying
female cases. In spite of the war-time depletions of numbers the
service has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

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NURSING IN THE HOME.

General and Maternity.

Local Nursing Associations provide Nurses who are Certified Midwives in co-operation with the Cornwall County Council. Practically the whole of the Rural District is covered by the work of these Local Associations.

Membership of a Local Association costs only a small sum each year. I recommend very strongly all those in the Rural District who are not already members to approach either the Nurse or Local Secretary without delay.

It is with pleasure that I record the very excellent work carried out by the District Nurses in the area.

Infectious

The District Nurses are forbidden to undertake the nursing of Infectious Diseases. The Cornwall County Council may be approached concerning the Institutional Treatment or the supplying of a Special Nurse for cases of Puerperal Pyrexia. Application is made by the Medical Attendant in charge of the case.

An infectious diseases Hospital has been opened in the County at Truro, and where the house conditions are not satisfactory and nursing facilities are not available, cases may be admitted on application to the Matron by the Doctor concerned. Arrangements are made by the Hospital for Ambulance.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been opened in the Rural District during 1942.

Hospitals.

Public - The Public Assistance Hospital situated in the Borough of Liskeard, receives cases from the Rural District of Liskeard and elsewhere.

Voluntary - The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital, also situated in the Borough of Liskeard, has been used extensively by the inhabitants of the Rural District. This Hospital contains 27 beds (12 General - 4 male and 8 female) 5 private wards, 3 emergency beds and 7 cots).

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The Number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases notified in the year was satisfactorily small. For the more important ones, the Emergency County Isolation Hospital offers a satisfactory treatment centre. Early admission limiting the spread of infection, and enabling the contacts to resume their normal occupation without undue loss of working time.

The Importance of Immunisation against Diphtheria is at last being realised by the inhabitants of the District and the following figures can be regarded as very satisfactory.

Number of children under 5	Number of children over 5 and under
years of age. Immunised - 170	15 years of age Immunised 471.
This gives a percentage of 57.4 and 88.06 in the groups respectively.	

There has been some increase in the number of cases of Scabies during the year.

Seven cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year. This can be regarded as very satisfactory.

No cases of Venereal Disease has been brought to my notice during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	15
Whooping Cough	28
Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	5
Measles	5
Pneumonia	13

CANCER

There were 29 deaths from Cancer during 1942, 17 Male and 12 Female. This is 14.6% of the total number of Deaths from all causes.

The nearest National Radium Centre is at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, and arrangements for treatment are made by the medical attendant in charge of the case with a member of the consulting staff of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action has been necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade) nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

During 1942 there was no "non-notified" deaths from Tuberculosis.

The Notification of Tuberculosis in the area is thorough and satisfactory.

The County Tuberculosis Officer is always available for consultation with the doctor concerned. Pathological specimens are examined and a diagnostic X-ray plant is in use at Trehidy Sanatorium. The County Tuberculosis Officer attends each month at Lamellion House, Liskeard, for the periodic survey of cases in the area.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.S. TOOGOOD, M.A. Oxon. M.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

Golden Bank, Liskeard.

